

26 December 2017

To: Supervisor Dallas

Rio Grande National Forest

From: Jenny Rechel

Subj: Comments on Rio Grande National Forest Management Plans

I support Alternative D in Draft Management Plan for the Rio Grande National Forest. I do not support Alternative B as it identifies areas for logging that infringe upon water and wildlife protection.

Alternative D recommends 285,000 acres for wilderness that protects five special interest areas proposed by local conservation groups. These areas in Alternative D are: Summer Coon/La Ventana Area Jim and Carnero Creek Trout Conservation Areas, Chama Basin Watershed Protection Areas, and Spruce Hole/Osier Wildlife Conservation Area.

I would like the following areas recommended for wilderness:

Wason Park Recommended Wilderness, Pole Creek and Sheep Mountain Recommended Wilderness, North Fork Rock Creek Recommended Wilderness, and Snowshoe Mountain addition the Weminuche Wilderness.

I feel that these additions to the wilderness in the Rio Grande National Forest provide the necessary habitat for the lynx and many other endangered and sensitive species on the Rio Grande National Forest. Additionally, fishing and bird watching are valuable monetary activities on the Rio Grande that I feel would be harmed by logging which would degrade water quality and bird habitats.

I currently own 38.9 acres of land in the San Francisco Creek Ranch area south of Del Norte. I have owned this land since 1996. My great grandparents owned approximately 300 acres in and around Saguache from the early 1900's through the early 1930's and they are buried in the Del Norte Cemetery. My grandfather regularly fished in San Francisco Creek. Many of my family still reside in the San Luis Valley area and I have historic and strong family ties to the Valley and surrounding National Forest including the Great Sand Dunes National Park, where my family had many summer camping trips since the late 1960's. I have hiked several of the peaks in the Sangre's (Sangre de Cristo Mountains).

I feel that the Rio Grande National Forest is unique for wildlife and recreational values and the above wilderness areas would greatly enhance the protections of its natural resources and still include local community involvement in the planning process.

Sincerely:

/s/ Jennifer L. Rechel

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